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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/938,857	08/27/2001	Joe D. Norwood	2048.0030000/MBR/RJS	1140

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EXAMINER

HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2002

#9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/938,857

Applicant(s)
Norwood et al.

Examiner
Brigitte R. Hammond

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 3, 2002
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Aug 27, 2001 is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on Apr 3, 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 8 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the indicator being a "dimple", "ridge" a "lug" **must be shown or the features canceled from the claim. No new matter should be entered.**

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action **to avoid abandonment** of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: change "the back " to --a back-- (the back lacks proper antecedence). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1,2 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mattingly et al. Mattingly et al. disclose a jack-side connector 12, a plug-side connector body 20, a bayonet

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sleeve 22 rotatably connected to the body, first and second indicators 74,70a configured to align with a reference point when the slots 38 are fully engaged with the lugs 16 to provide a visual indication.

Regarding claim 6, Mattingly et al. disclose third indicators 74,70a and slots 38.

Regarding claim 7, the three J-shaped slots 38 of Mattingly et al. are approximately 120 degrees apart.

Regarding claim 8, indicator 70a is substantially v-shaped.

Regarding claim 9, Mattingly et al. is a **BNC** connector. (Bayonet Nut Connector).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3-5 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mattingly et al. in view of Trompeter. Mattingly et al. disclose the connector as having lugs approximately 120 degrees apart, not 180 degrees apart as recited by applicant. However, BNC connectors with lugs approximately 180 degrees apart are well known in the art as evidenced by Trompeter. Trompeter discloses a connector having lugs spaced approximately 180 degrees apart. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the connector of Mattingly et al. to have the lugs spaced approximately 180 degrees apart as taught by Trompeter for a

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simpler construction, since applicant has not disclosed that spacing the lugs approximately 180 degrees apart solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose. Also, regarding claim 3, the slots of Mattingly et al. are three J-shaped.

Regarding claims 4 and 5, the indicator 70a is a substantially v-shaped dimple.

Regarding claims 13-15, the indicators of Mattingly et al. are visible from the back of the connector.

7. Claims 10-12 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mattingly et al. in view of Trompeter and further in view of Vetter. Mattingly et al. do not disclose an insulator in the jack-side connector nor the lugs being approximately 180 degrees apart. However, Vetter has an insulator 34 in the jack-side connector 12, and Trompeter discloses a connector having lugs spaced approximately 180 degrees apart. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the connector of Mattingly et al. to have the lugs spaced approximately 180 degrees apart as taught by Trompeter for a simpler construction. And it would have also been obvious to modify the connector assembly of Mattingly et al. by inserting an insulator as taught by Vetter to hold the pins for an insert.

Regarding claim 11, indicator 70a is substantially v-shaped.

Regarding claim 12, Mattingly et al. is a **BNC** connector. (Bayonet Nut Connector).

Regarding claim 16, the indicators of Mattingly et al. are visible from the back.

Response to Arguments

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8. Applicant's arguments filed April 5, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's arguments that "Mattingly does not provide a visual indicator", the examiner disagrees, Mattingly clearly provides visual indicators 74,70a (see column 5, lines 1-9 and 34-37).

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is (703) 305-0032.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley, can be reached on (703) 308-2319. Papers may be faxed directly to Group 2833 at (703) 305-3432.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Brigitte R. Hammond

July 28, 2002

P. Bradley
P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800